

1           **In the Claims**

2

3       **1. (Currently Amended)** A processor-readable medium comprising  
4       processor-executable instructions for:

5           parsing an input file to recognize a file format of the input file, wherein the  
6           parsing repeatedly parses once with each of a plurality of component  
7           parsers contained within a compound parser, wherein ~~the compound~~  
8           parser is extensible and each of the plurality of component parsers is  
9           configured for recognition of a specific file format by which an input  
10           file is configured, wherein the compound parser is extensible, and  
11           wherein extending the compound parser comprises adding an  
12           additional component parser;

13           checking contents of the input file, according to the recognized file format,  
14           to determine whether executable code exists within the input file,  
15           wherein the checking comprises detecting executable code because  
16           its location within the input file is inconsistent with the recognized  
17           file format;

18           continuing to parse the input file until a component parser recognizes the  
19           file format of the input file with all remaining component parsers  
20           after at least one component parser recognizes the file format of the  
21           input file; and

22           sending a status in response to results of said checking, wherein sending a  
23           status comprises further instructions for:

1                   sending a file-has-no-code status when the file format of the input  
2                   file was recognized and no executable code was found;  
3                   sending a file-has-code status when executable code was found; and  
4                   sending a don't-know status when the file format of the input file  
5                   was not recognized.

6

7 **2-5. (Cancelled)**

8

9       **6. (Original)** The processor-readable medium as recited in claim 1, wherein  
10            sending the status comprises further instructions for sending the status to an  
11            email program.

12

13       **7. (Original)** The processor-readable medium as recited in claim 1, wherein  
14            sending the status comprises further instructions for sending the status to an  
15            instant messaging program.

16

17       **8. (Original)** The processor-readable medium as recited in claim 1, wherein  
18            sending the status comprises further instructions for sending the status to an  
19            internet browsing program.

20

21 **9-12. (Cancelled)**

22

23       **13. (Currently Amended)** The processor-readable medium as recited in claim  
24            11, additionally comprising further instructions for continuing to parse the

1       input file with all remaining component parsers after at least one  
2       component parser recognizes the file format of the input file~~parsing the~~  
3       input file until a component parser recognizes the file format of the input  
4       file.

5

6       **14. (Currently Amended)** A method of detecting code-free files, comprising:  
7       identifying a new file format, wherein ability to recognize the new file  
8       format is functionality to be extended to a compound parser;  
9       configuring a new component parser according to the new file format,  
10       wherein the new component parser is configured to recognize files  
11       of the new format and also to recognize executable code in files of  
12       the new format by locating executable code that is inconsistent with  
13       the new file format; and  
14       extending functionality of the compound parser by adding the new  
15       component parser to the compound parser;  
16       wherein the compound parser, having extended functionality, is configured  
17       to operate to parse an input file by:  
18       parsing an input file with a compound parser, wherein the  
19       compound parser is configured to include a plurality of  
20       component parsers, wherein each component parser is  
21       configured to recognize a specific data file format;  
22       analyzing contents of the input file according to the recognized  
23       specific file format, where available, to determine if the input  
24       file contains executable code; and

sending a status in response to results of said analyzing.

15. **(Original)** The method as recited in claim 14, additionally comprising:  
sending a file-has-no-code status when the file format of the input file was  
recognized and no executable code was found; and  
sending a file-has-code status when executable code was found.
16. **(Original)** The method as recited in claim 14, additionally comprising  
sending a don't-know status when a file format of the input file was not  
recognized.
17. **(Original)** The method as recited in claim 14, additionally comprising  
sending the status to an email program.
18. **(Original)** The method as recited in claim 14, additionally comprising  
sending the status to an instant messaging program.
19. **(Original)** The method as recited in claim 14, additionally comprising  
sending the status to an internet browsing program.
20. **(Original)** The method as recited in claim 14, wherein parsing the input file  
comprises parsing the input file with each of the plurality of component  
parsers within the compound parser.

1       **21. (Currently Amended)** An apparatus for detecting code-free files,  
2       comprising:

3           a compound parser configured to repeatedly parse an input file, wherein  
4           each component parser within the compound parser is configured to  
5           recognize executable code within a specific file format selected from  
6           among a group of data file formats; and  
7           a controller to examine success of each of the component parsers to  
8           recognize the specific file format for which it was configured to  
9           recognize and to find executable code within the input file, wherein  
10          the controller is configured to send a status in response to results of  
11          said checking, wherein sending a status comprises:

12           sending a file-has-no-code status when the file format of the  
13           input file was recognized and no executable code was  
14           found;

15           sending a file-has-code status when executable code was  
16           found; and

17           sending a don't-know status when the file format of the input  
18           file was not recognized.

19  
20       **22. (Cancelled)**

21  
22       **23. (Original)** The apparatus as recited in claim 21, wherein the apparatus for  
23       detecting code-free files is additionally configured to send the status to an  
24       email program.

1  
2 **24.** **(Original)** The apparatus as recited in claim 21, wherein the apparatus for  
3 detecting code-free files is additionally configured to send the status to an  
4 instant messaging program.

5  
6 **25.** **(Original)** The apparatus as recited in claim 21, wherein the apparatus for  
7 detecting code-free files is additionally configured to send the status to an  
8 internet browsing program.

9  
10 **26.** **(Original)** The apparatus as recited in claim 21, additionally configured to  
11 send the status to:

12 a firewall;  
13 a host intrusion detector; or  
14 a host vulnerability assessor.

15  
16 **27.** **(Original)** The apparatus as recited in claim 21, additionally configured to  
17 send the status to a program selected from a group of programs,  
18 comprising:

19 a backup program;  
20 a CD/DVD burning program; and  
21 a P2P file-sharing program.

1       **28. (Original)** The apparatus as recited in claim 21, wherein each of the  
2       component parsers is configured to recognize one of a plurality of data file  
3       formats.

4

5       **29. (Original)** The apparatus as recited in claim 21, wherein the compound  
6       parser is configured to allow extension by addition of a new component  
7       parser to the compound parser, wherein the new component parser  
8       recognizes a further file format and recognizes executable code within the  
9       further file format.

10

11     **30. (New)** The processor-readable medium as recited in claim 1, wherein  
12       adding an additional component parser comprises instructions for:  
13            identifying a new file format, wherein ability to recognize the new file  
14            format is functionality to be extended to the compound parser;  
15            configuring a new component parser according to the new file format,  
16            wherein the new component parser is configured to recognize files  
17            of the new format and also to recognize executable code in files of  
18            the new format by locating executable code that is inconsistent with  
19            the new file format; and  
20            extending functionality of the compound parser by adding the new  
21            component parser to the compound parser.